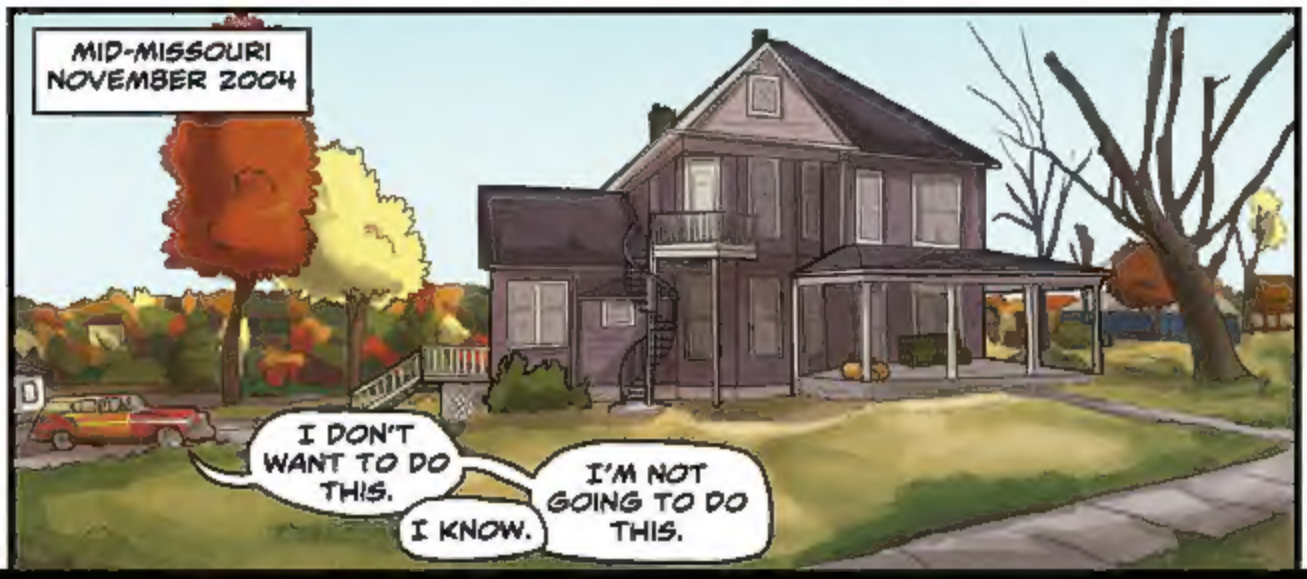


# HOMECOMING

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SHE'LL THROW ME OUT.
SHE'LL HAVE A STROKE.
SHE'LL THROW ME OUT AND HAVE A STROKE AND DIE AND THEN I'LL BE AN ORPHAN.
I WILL PUSH YOU OUT OF THIS CAR IF I HAVE TO.
YEAH I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, MICHELLE! I HELD OFF THE MOMO WITH NAUGHT BUT MY FOREHEAD, YOU KNOW.
AUGGHHH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PLAN? YOU HAD A PLAN ALL WORKED OUT ON THE WAY UP HERE.
THE PLAN IS CRAP!
"OH, HI MOM. REMEMBER HOW DAD HAD A BRAIN ANEURYSM AND DROPPED DEAD SUDDENLY AND IT KIND OF DESTROYED US FOR AWHILE, BUT WE WORKED THROUGH IT AND FOUND A WAY TO MOVE ON?"
"WELL TURNS OUT HIS GHOST WAS HAUNTING ME AND HE GAVE ME A NECKLACE THAT TURNED ME INTO A BIG OL' CAT MONSTER.
BUT HE'S ALSO A BIG OL' CAT MONSTER AND OH YEAH SORRY HE'S STILL SUPER DEAD AND A LITTLE OUT OF IT AND NEVER EXPLAINED ANYTHING TO ME..."
"AND THEN AN ANGEL GAVE HIM BACK TO SOME DEMONS SO HE COULD GO BACK DOWN TO A PLACE CALLED THE 'VNFERNO' WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT PLACE, I'M SURE HE'S VERY HAPPY THERE."
BREATHE, MICHELLE! CALM DOWN!

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THIS IS NONSENSE! HOW DO YOU TELL YOUR MOTHER SOMETHING LIKE THIS? IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
MICHELLE, SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN AND SHE'LL FIND OUT EVENTUALLY. IF SITCOMS HAVE TAUGHT ME ANYTHING, KEEPING A BIG SECRET NEVER WORKS OUT.
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR TELEVISION ADDICTION.
IT'S ONLY A PROBLEM IF I SAY IT'S A PROBLEM.
C'MON, LET'S DO THIS. I'LL COME WITH YOU.
BUT...
NOPE, YOU'RE DOING THIS.
HEY NO FAIR!
AND SO...
OPEN THE DOOR, MICHELLE
I'M GONNA!
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MOM?
MICHELLE! OH HONEY YOU'RE HOME!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOUR EMAIL. AND THEN YOU KEPT PUTTING OFF YOUR VISIT...
YEAH, SORRY. STUFF... KEPT COMING UP.
LET ME LOOK AT YOU! MY BIG COLLEGE GIRL! YOU'VE...
...CERTAINLY DONE SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR.

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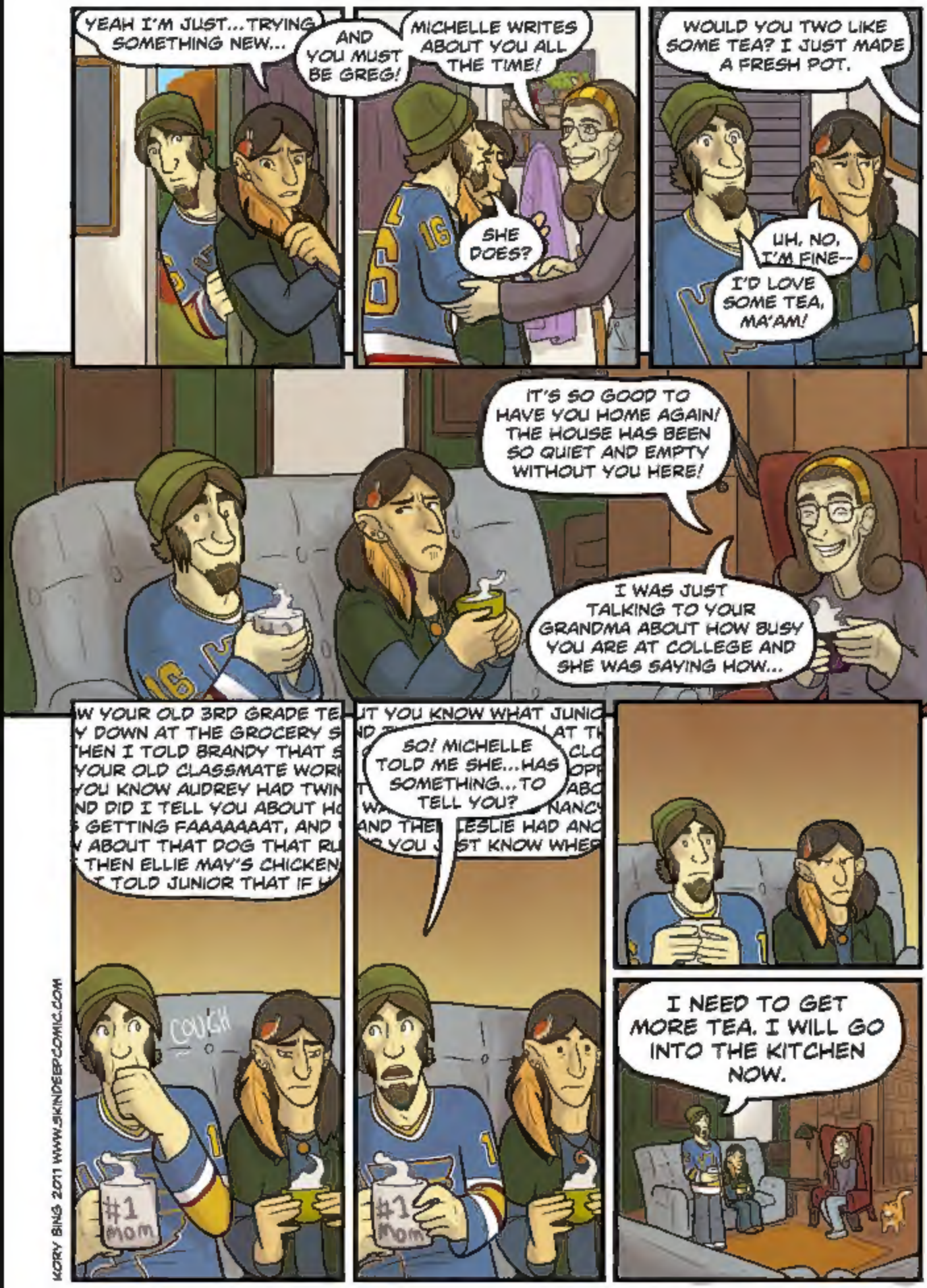
YEAH I'M JUST...TRYING SOMETHING NEW...
AND YOU MUST BE GREG!
MICHELLE WRITES ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME!
SHE DOES?
WOULD YOU TWO LIKE SOME TEA? I JUST MADE A FRESH POT.
UH, NO, I'M FINE--
I'D LOVE SOME TEA, MA'AM!
IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU HOME AGAIN! THE HOUSE HAS BEEN SO QUIET AND EMPTY WITHOUT YOU HERE!
I WAS JUST TALKING TO YOUR GRANDMA ABOUT HOW BUSY YOU ARE AT COLLEGE AND SHE WAS SAYING HOW...
W YOUR OLD 3RD GRADE TE
Y DOWN AT THE GROCERY S
HEN I TOLD BRANDY THAT S
YOUR OLD CLASSMATE WORK
OU KNOW AUDREY HAD TWIN
ND DID I TELL YOU ABOUT H
GETTING FAAAAAAAT, AND
ABOUT THAT DOG THAT RU
THEN ELLIE MAY'S CHICKEN
I TOLD JUNIOR THAT IF H
COUGH
#1 Mom
JT YOU KNOW WHAT JUNIO
SO! MICHELLE TOLD ME SHE...HAS SOMETHING...TO TELL YOU?
#1 Mom
I NEED TO GET MORE TEA. I WILL GO INTO THE KITCHEN NOW.

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I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
MICHELLE, I'VE SEEN A LOT OF THINGS IN MY LIFE. WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SAY I'M SURE IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU THINK.
YOU SAY THAT NOW BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE KIND OF CRAZY THAT'S ABOUT TO COME OUT OF MY MOUTH.
HONEY, IF YOU'RE PREGNANT OR GAY OR WHATEVER, I'LL UNDERSTAND.
NO, IT'S NOT...
...PREGNANT!? I DON'T LOOK PREGNANT DO I?
WELL I'M SORRY, MICHELLE, IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT I'M GOING TO START ASSUMING!
HONESTLY AT THIS POINT I WISH THAT WAS IT, THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE, AT LEAST.
ARE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING ME ANY TIME SOON?
OKAY, OKAY.
I SAW DAD. HE GAVE ME THIS.
WHAT?
I GUESS IT'S A MAGIC...THING AND IT BROKE AN OLD SPELL I HAD ON ME AND NOW I'M A SPHINX, WHICH IS LIKE A LION BIRD MONSTER, AND I THINK DAD WAS ONE, TOO, BUT I DON'T THINK HE KNEW IT, AND THIS NECKLACE IS THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME HUMAN RIGHT NOW.
...
WHAT.
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MAGIC...WHAT? YOU SAW YOUR DAD? LIKE IN A DREAM?
AUGH, I'M GONNA HAVE TO SHOW YOU. I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW YOU.
MICHELLE, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU GOTTA PROMISE ME YOU WON'T FREAK OUT, OKAY?
O...OKAY?
OKAY.
OKAY.
...OKAY.
I...I KNOW THIS IS GRADE-A TWIN PEAKS X-FILES LEVEL WEIRD, BUT...
BUT I HAD TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT BECAUSE MAYBE YOU KNEW--
--OH JEEZE PLEASE DON'T HAVE A HEART ATTACK OR SOMETHING I WOULD FEEL SO BAD IF--
YOU...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MICHAEL...
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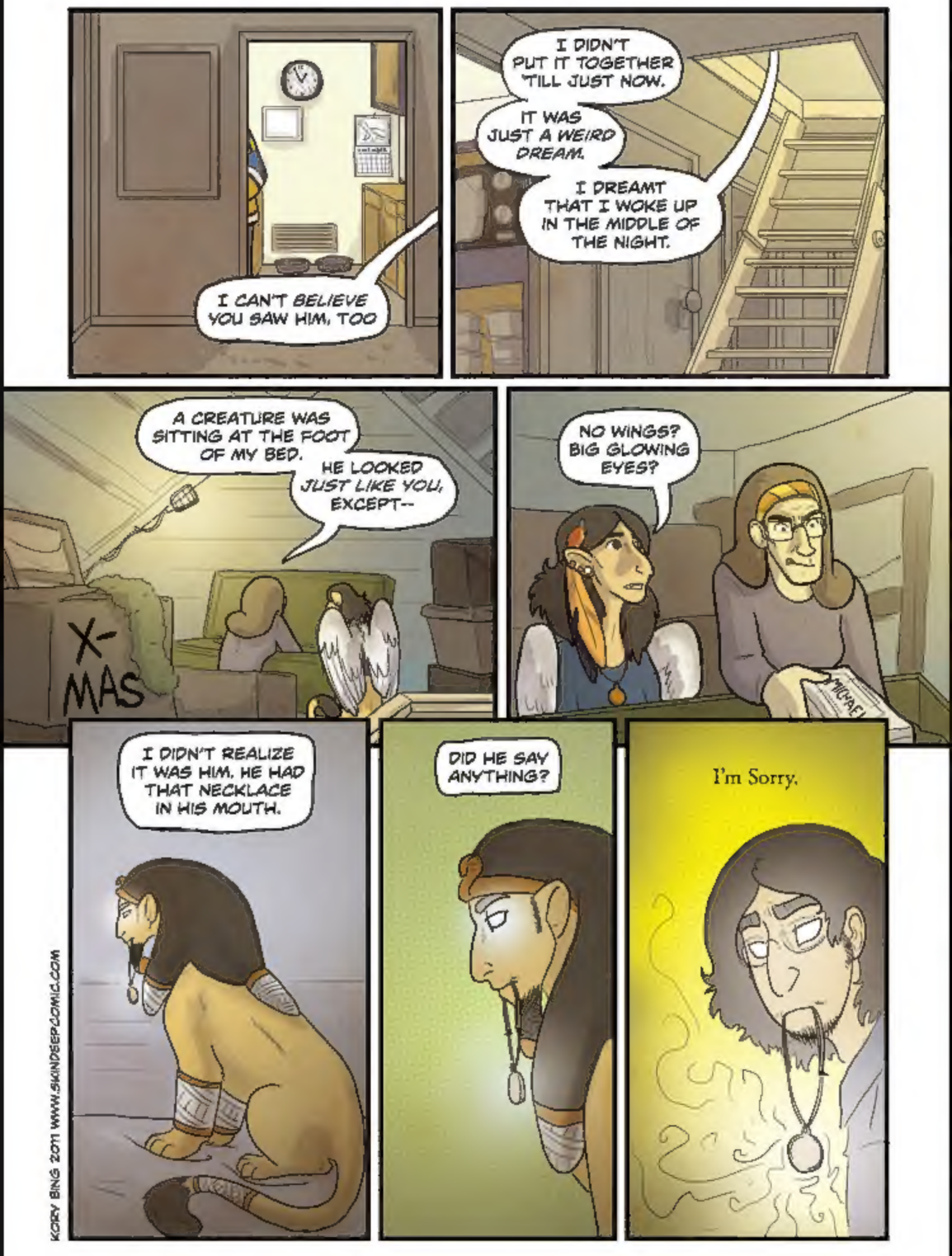
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAW HIM, TOO
I DIDN'T PUT IT TOGETHER 'TILL JUST NOW.
IT WAS JUST A WEIRD DREAM.
I DREAMT THAT I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
A CREATURE WAS SITTING AT THE FOOT OF MY BED.
HE LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU, EXCEPT--
X-MAS
NO WINGS? BIG GLOWING EYES?
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS HIM. HE HAD THAT NECKLACE IN HIS MOUTH.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING?
I'm Sorry.

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LORD, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT REALLY HAPPENED. IF I HAD KNOWN... I COULD HAVE TRIED TO TALK TO HIM OR SOMETHING.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MUCH OUT OF HIM. IT WAS LIKE HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS SAYING BUT HE COULDN'T TELL ME IN A WAY I COULD UNDERSTAND.
HE SANG THAT SONG HE USED TO SING WHEN I WAS A KID, THOUGH.
NOTHING HE TOLD YOU MADE SENSE?
HE MENTIONED THE JOCASTAS, AND THEN HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A WOSRET?
DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
NO. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIS SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
HIS MOTHER DIED YOUNG, BUT HE NEVER TALKED ABOUT THAT.
I SHOULD HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT HIS FAMILY.
SHOULD I HAVE BEEN MORE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ALL OF THAT? ASKED HIM MORE QUESTIONS?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING ELSE?
HE SAID A RAVI COULD HELP ME. DO YOU KNOW ANY RAVIS?
NO, I SURE DON'T.
HAH! HERE IT IS! I KNEW IT WAS IN THIS OLD TRUNK!

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AW HELL, THE LOCK'S BROKEN.
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR FATHER WAS VERY PROTECTIVE OF THIS. EVERY TIME WE MOVED HE MADE A FUSS ABOUT KEEPING IT SAFE.
HE SAID IT WAS A FAMILY HEIRLOOM, AND AS LONG AS IT STAYED IN THE BOX IT WOULD BRING GOOD LUCK.
SOME LUCK IT GAVE HIM WHEN... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I KEPT IT.
WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE INSIDE OF IT?
THAT.
OH.
CAN I SEE THAT REAL QUICK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOTHING, APPARENTLY.

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I THOUGHT MAYBE IF I TOUCHED IT I'D GET SOME SORTA VISION THAT WOULD HELP ME OUT OR WHATEVER.
VISION?
OH IT'S STUPID! I KEEP GETTING FLASHES OF USEFUL... POWERS, I GUESS, BUT I CAN'T EVER FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THEM AGAIN!
I THOUGHT I COULD MAYBE TRIGGER ONE AND GET SOME INFO ON WHAT TO DO NEXT, BUT OF COURSE IT DIDN'T WORK.
THAT WOULD HAVE JUST BEEN CONVENIENT.
ALGH. LISTEN TO ME! LOOK AT ME!
THIS IS COMPLETELY BONKERS. I'M TRYING SO HARD TO FIGURE THIS OUT, BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE TO EVEN START.
UUGGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WELL YOU'RE TAKING ALL OF THIS.
IT HASN'T REALLY SUNKEN IN YET. I'M SURE ONCE YOU LEAVE I'LL START SOBBING UNCONTROLLABLY.
YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY, MOM.

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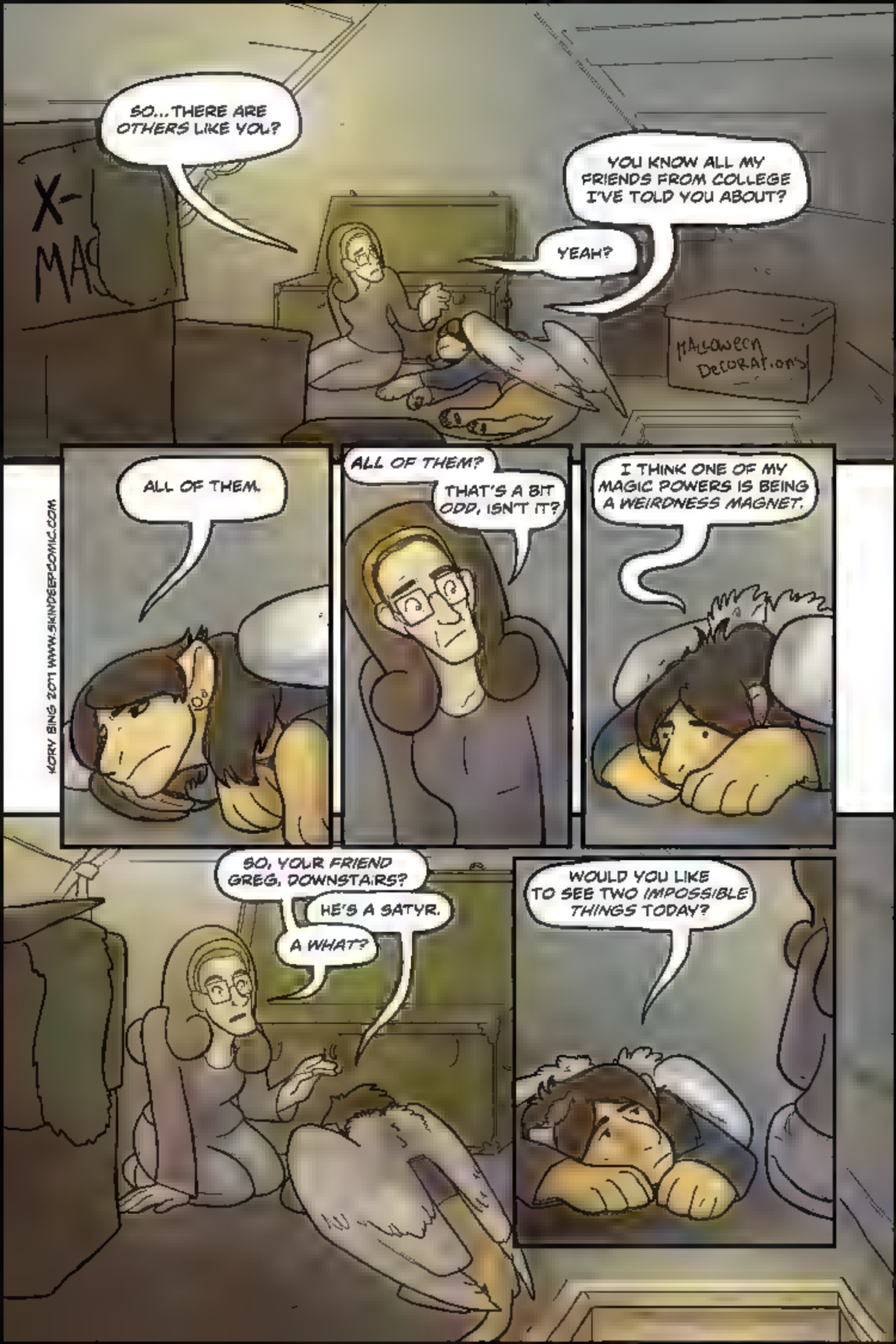
SO... THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE YOU?
X-
YOU KNOW ALL MY FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT?
YEAH?
HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS
ALL OF THEM.
ALL OF THEM?
THAT'S A BIT ODD, ISN'T IT?
I THINK ONE OF MY MAGIC POWERS IS BEING A WEIRDNESS MAGNET.
SO, YOUR FRIEND GREG, DOWNSTAIRS?
HE'S A SATYR.
A WHAT?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TWO IMPOSSIBLE THINGS TODAY?
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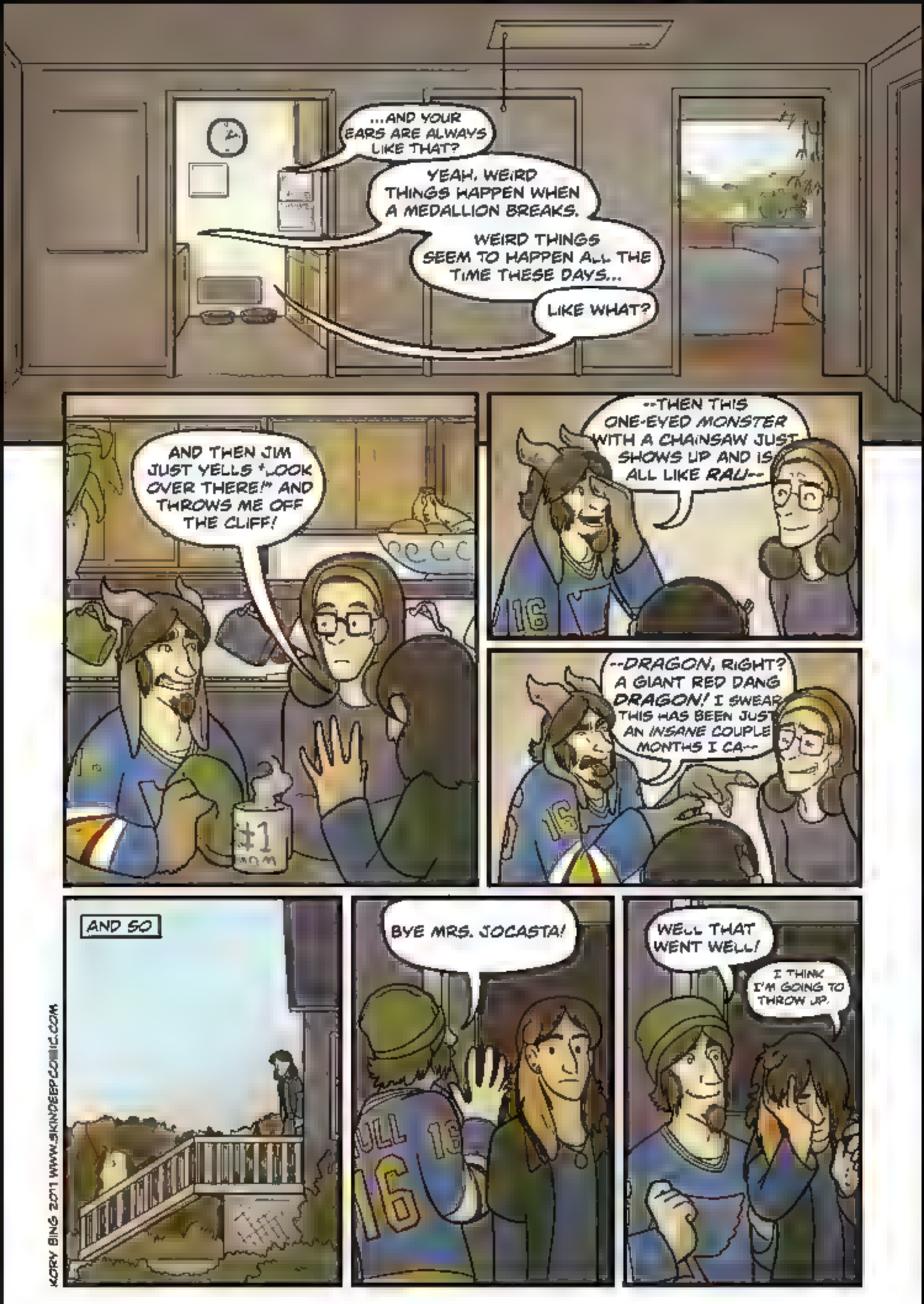
...AND YOUR EARS ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
YEAH, WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN A MEDALLION BREAKS.
WEIRD THINGS SEEM TO HAPPEN ALL THE TIME THESE DAYS...
LIKE WHAT?
AND THEN JIM JUST YELLS "LOOK OVER THERE!" AND THROWS ME OFF THE CLIFF!
--THEN THIS ONE-EYED MONSTER WITH A CHAINSAW JUST SHOWS UP AND IS ALL LIKE RAU--
--DRAGON, RIGHT? A GIANT RED DANG DRAGON! I SWEAR THIS HAS BEEN JUST AN INSANE COUPLE MONTHS I CA--
AND SO
BYE MRS. JOCASTA!
WELL THAT WENT WELL!
I THINK I'M GOING TO THROW UP.

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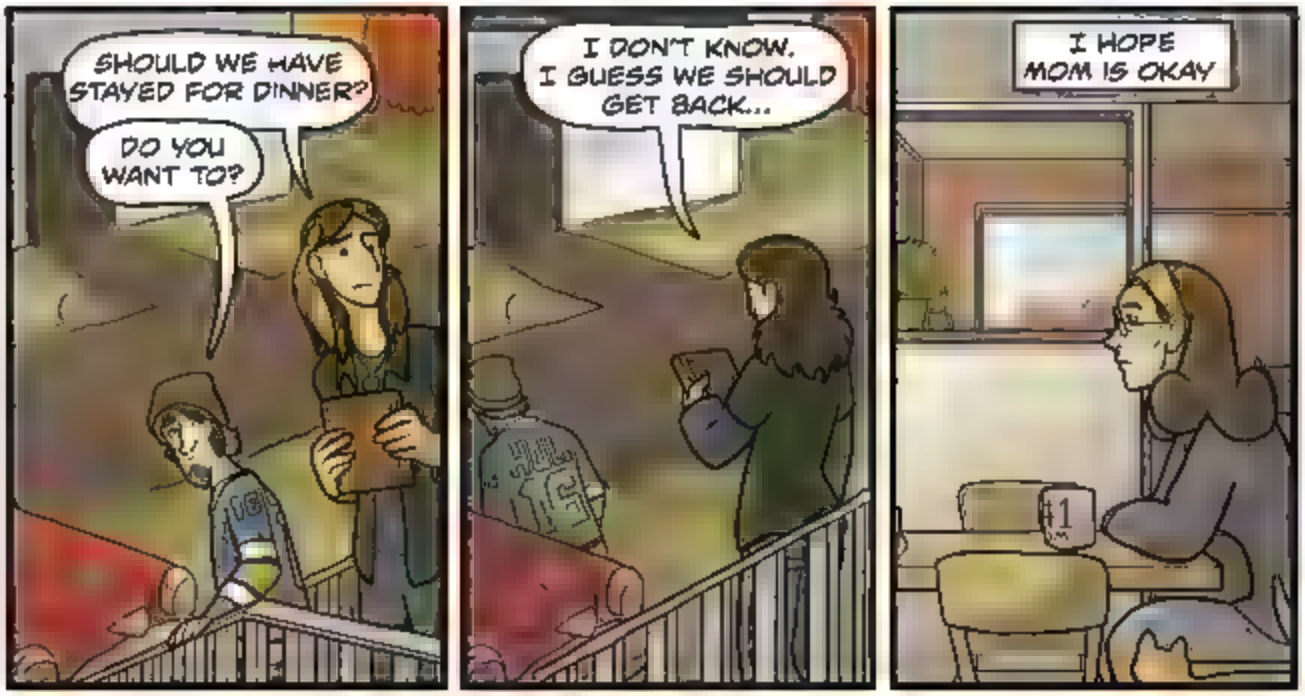


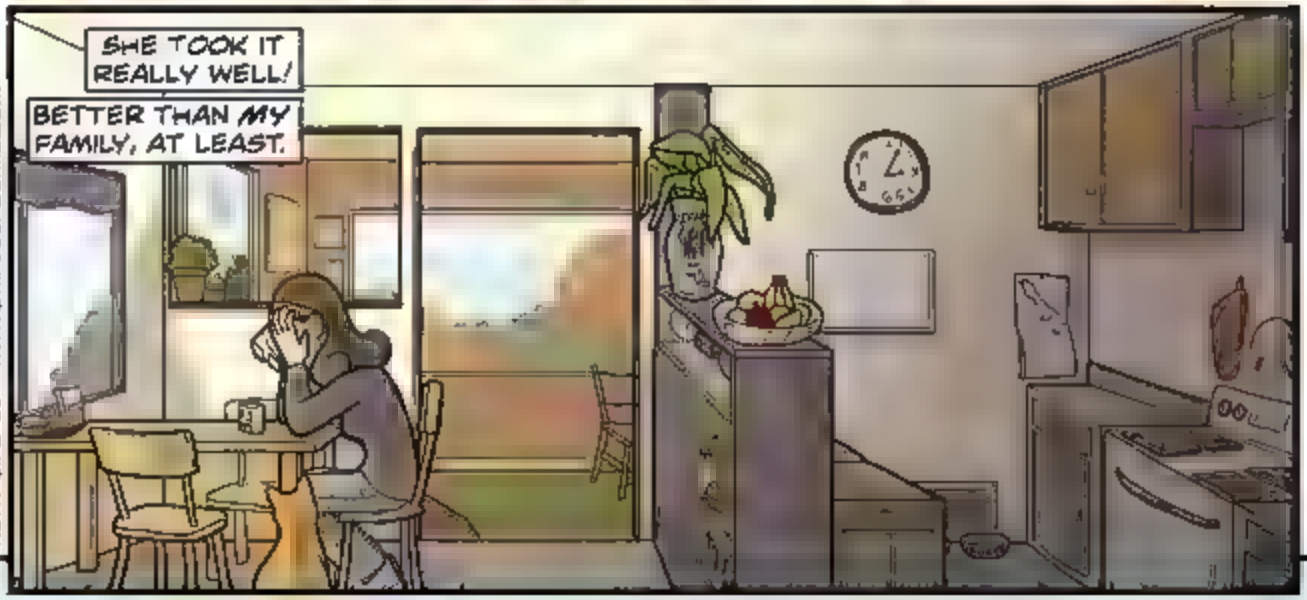


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REALLY? YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO YOUR FAMILY IN YEARS?
WELL, OUTSIDE OF MY MOM, NO.
WE WERE NEVER THAT POPULAR TO BEGIN WITH, REAL TRADITIONAL FAMILY. NEVER ACCEPTED ME AS PART OF THEM SINCE MOM HAD ME OUT OF WEDLOCK.
NOW THEY THINK MY MYSTERY DAD WAS SOME SORTA HELL DEMON.
I'M SURPRISED THEY HAVEN'T TRIED TO EXORCISE ME OR SOMETHING, YET.
OH WOW, JEEZE GREG. I'M SORRY...
EH, IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME ANYMORE.
DESPITE WHAT THE FAMILY SAYS ABOUT HER, MY MOM HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS HAPPENED
AFTER WE MOVED AWAY FROM THEM, I MET MERIAL. BETWEEN MY MOM, MERIAL AND HER FOLKS, I HAVE ALL THE FAMILY I'VE EVER NEEDED.
AND, WHO KNOWS, MAYBE MY MOM'S FAMILY WILL REALIZE SOME DAY THAT I'M THIS WAY BECAUSE OF THEIR SIDE OF THE FAMILY, NOT MY DAD'S...
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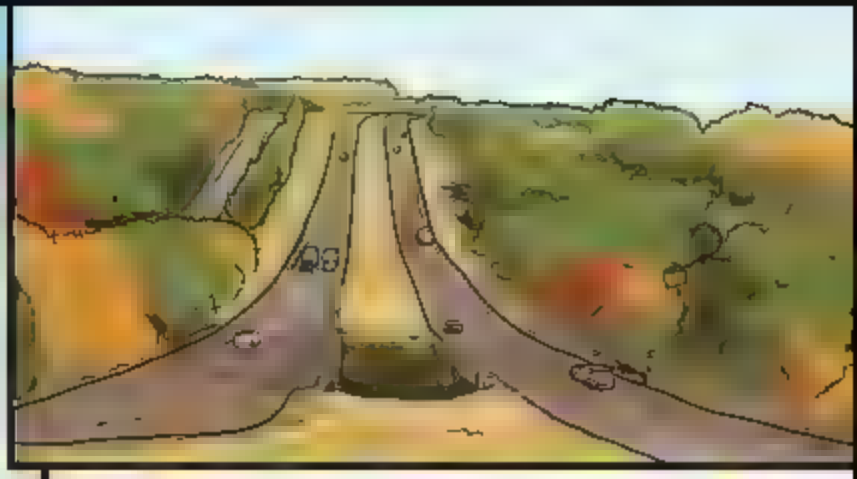

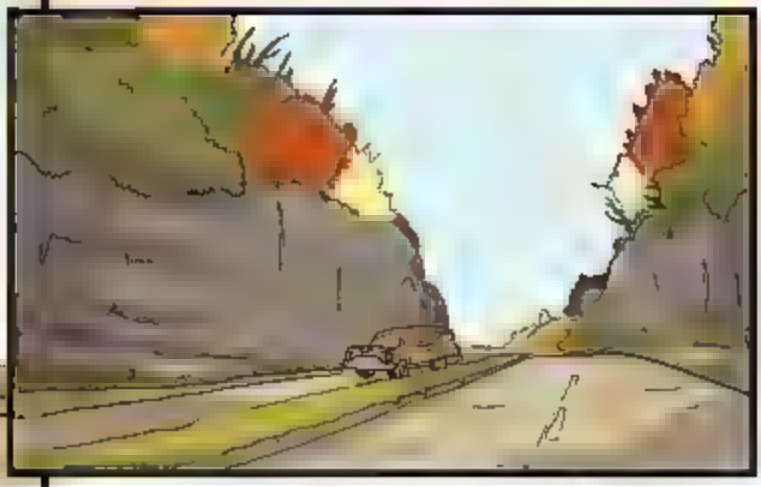

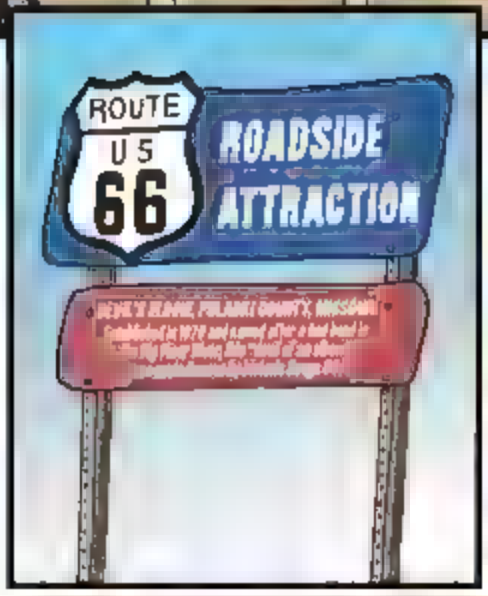


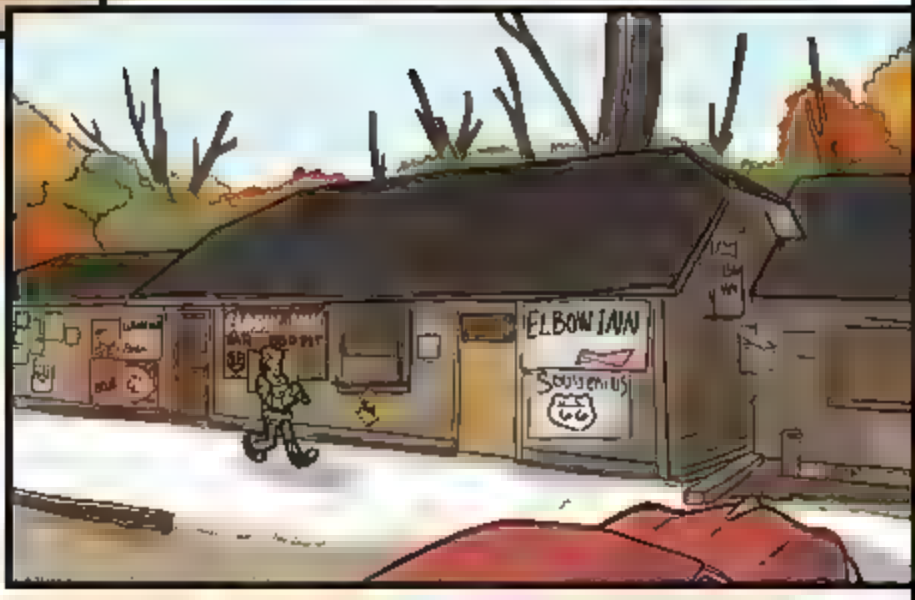


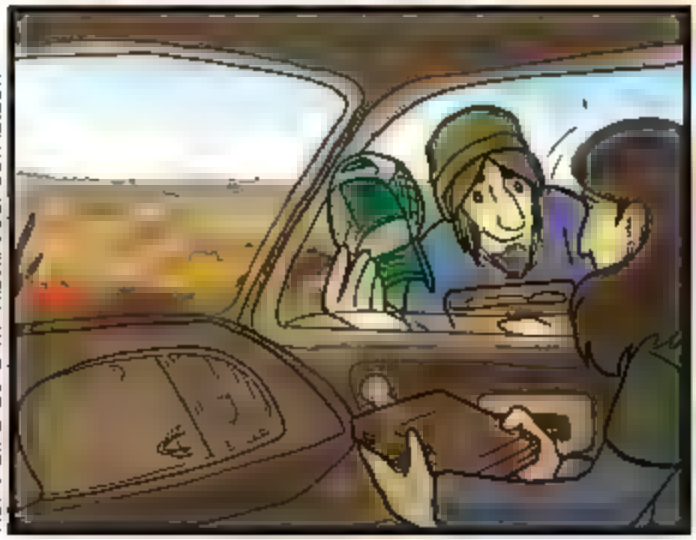

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ALMOST HOME!
Springfield
Branson
Joplin
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DORMS YET.
OH? UH, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
WE CAN GET TO THE RIVER VALLEY FROM THIS ROAD, CAN'T WE?
THE RIVER VALLEY? LIKE MERIAL'S CABIN? THIS LATE IN THE DAY? WE HAVE CLASS TOMORROW.
...
I DON'T CARE.
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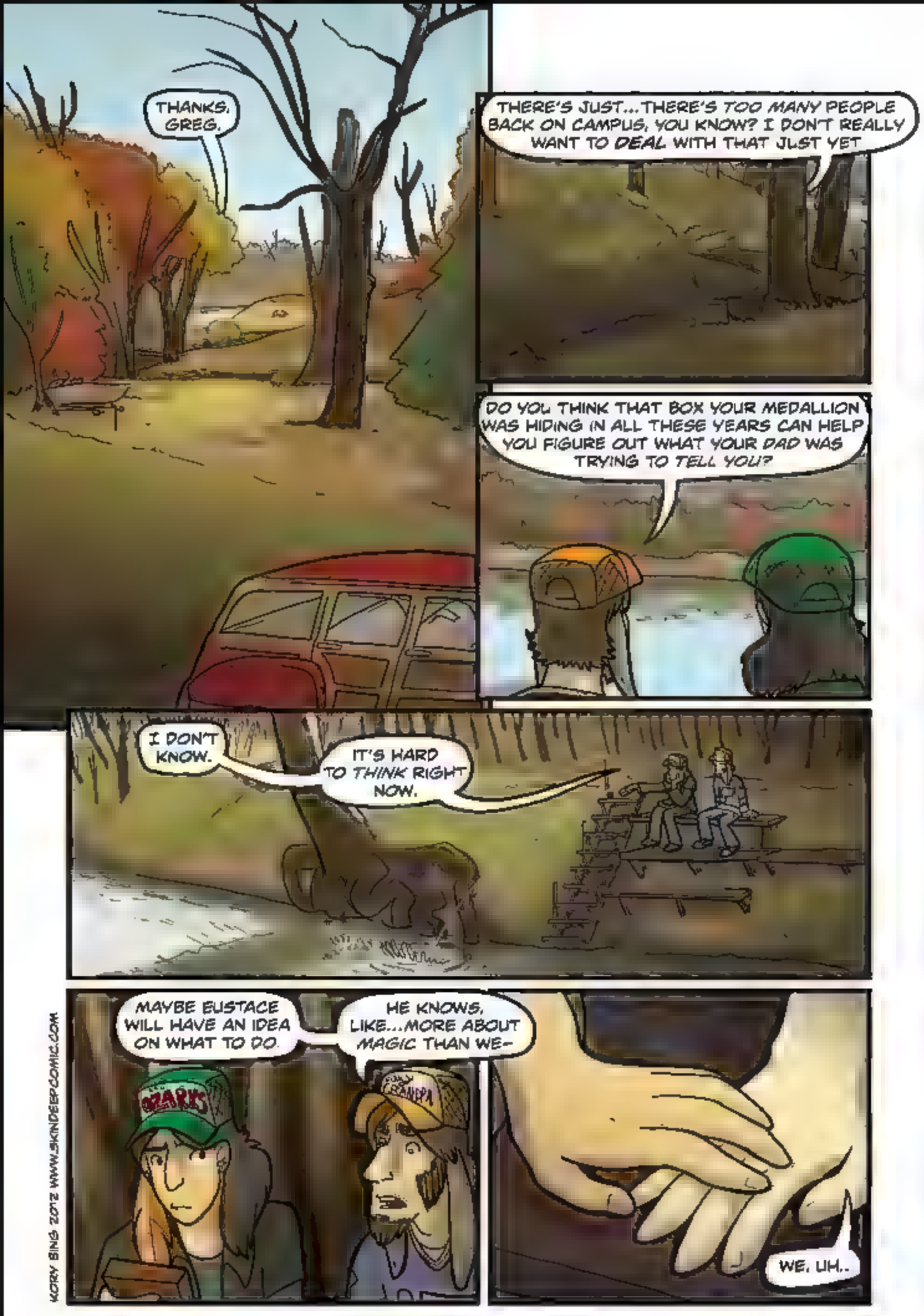
THANKS, GREG.
THERE'S JUST...THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE BACK ON CAMPUS, YOU KNOW? I DON'T REALLY WANT TO DEAL WITH THAT JUST YET
DO YOU THINK THAT BOX YOUR MEDALLION WAS HIDING IN ALL THESE YEARS CAN HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT YOUR DAD WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU?
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S HARD TO THINK RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE EUSTACE WILL HAVE AN IDEA ON WHAT TO DO.
HE KNOWS, LIKE...MORE ABOUT MAGIC THAN WE-
OZARKS
GRANDPA
WE, UH..

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THANK YOU FOR BEING SO PATIENT WITH ME— WITH ALL OF THIS.
OZARKS
WELL, I MEAN... THERE'S NOTHING REALLY TO BE PATIENT ABOUT, YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO DEAL WITH AND—
SQUEEZE
—I... I WANT TO HELP HOWEVER I CAN AND, WELL I... I JUST...
FOR GRANDPA
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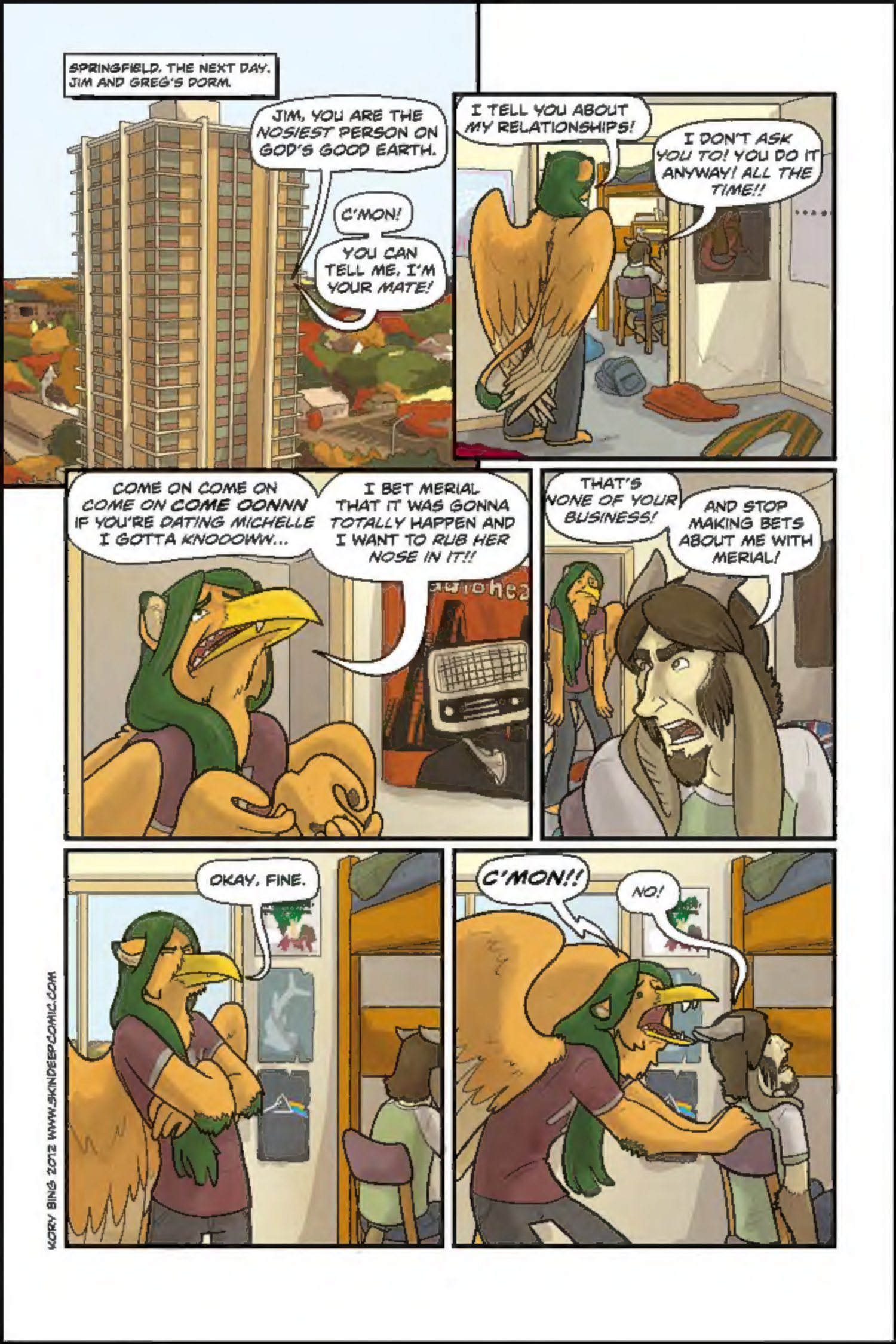
SPRINGFIELD, THE NEXT DAY.
JIM AND GREG'S DORM.
JIM, YOU ARE THE NOSIEST PERSON ON GOD'S GOOD EARTH.
C'MON!
YOU CAN TELL ME, I'M YOUR MATE!
I TELL YOU ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIPS!
I DON'T ASK YOU TO! YOU DO IT ANYWAY! ALL THE TIME!!
COME ON COME ON COME ON COME OONNN IF YOU'RE DATING MICHELLE I GOTTA KNOOOWW...
I BET MERIAL THAT IT WAS GONNA TOTALLY HAPPEN AND I WANT TO RUB HER NOSE IN IT!!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
AND STOP MAKING BETS ABOUT ME WITH MERIAL!
OKAY, FINE.
C'MON!!
NO!
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AT LEAST TELL ME HOW SHE CHANGED YOUR EYES. THERE'S A GOOD STORY THERE, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE THE ONLY SATYR I'VE EVER MET THAT DIDN'T HAVE GOAT EYES AND NOW YOU DOOoooOo!
YOU ARE MAKING LESS SENSE THAN USUAL.
AND NOW YOU'RE JUST SITTING AROUND THE DORM ALL SATYR-Y, WHICH YOU NEVER DO!
I JUST FELT LIKE IT, OKAY?
THAT MEANS SOMETHING, GREG! SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED!
THE HELL?
SHE ROCK YOUR WORLD SO HARD IT KNOCKED THE BLUE OUT OF YOUR EYES?
JIM!
TELL MEEEEEE!

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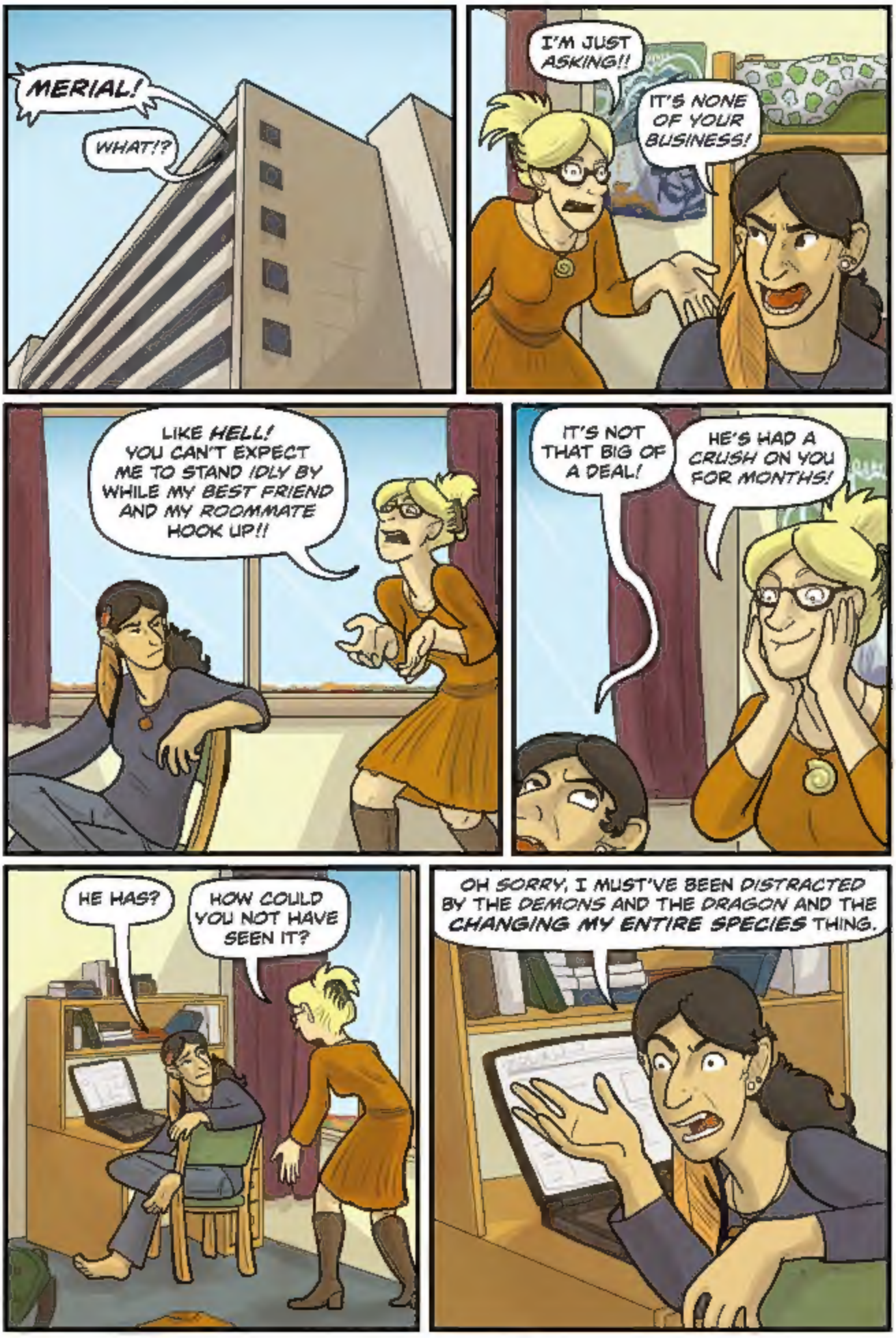
MERIAL!
WHAT!?
I'M JUST ASKING!!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
LIKE HELL! YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO STAND IDLY BY WHILE MY BEST FRIEND AND MY ROOMMATE HOOK UP!!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL!
HE'S HAD A CRUSH ON YOU FOR MONTHS!
HE HAS?
HOW COULD YOU NOT HAVE SEEN IT?
OH SORRY, I MUST'VE BEEN DISTRACTED BY THE DEMONS AND THE DRAGON AND THE CHANGING MY ENTIRE SPECIES THING.

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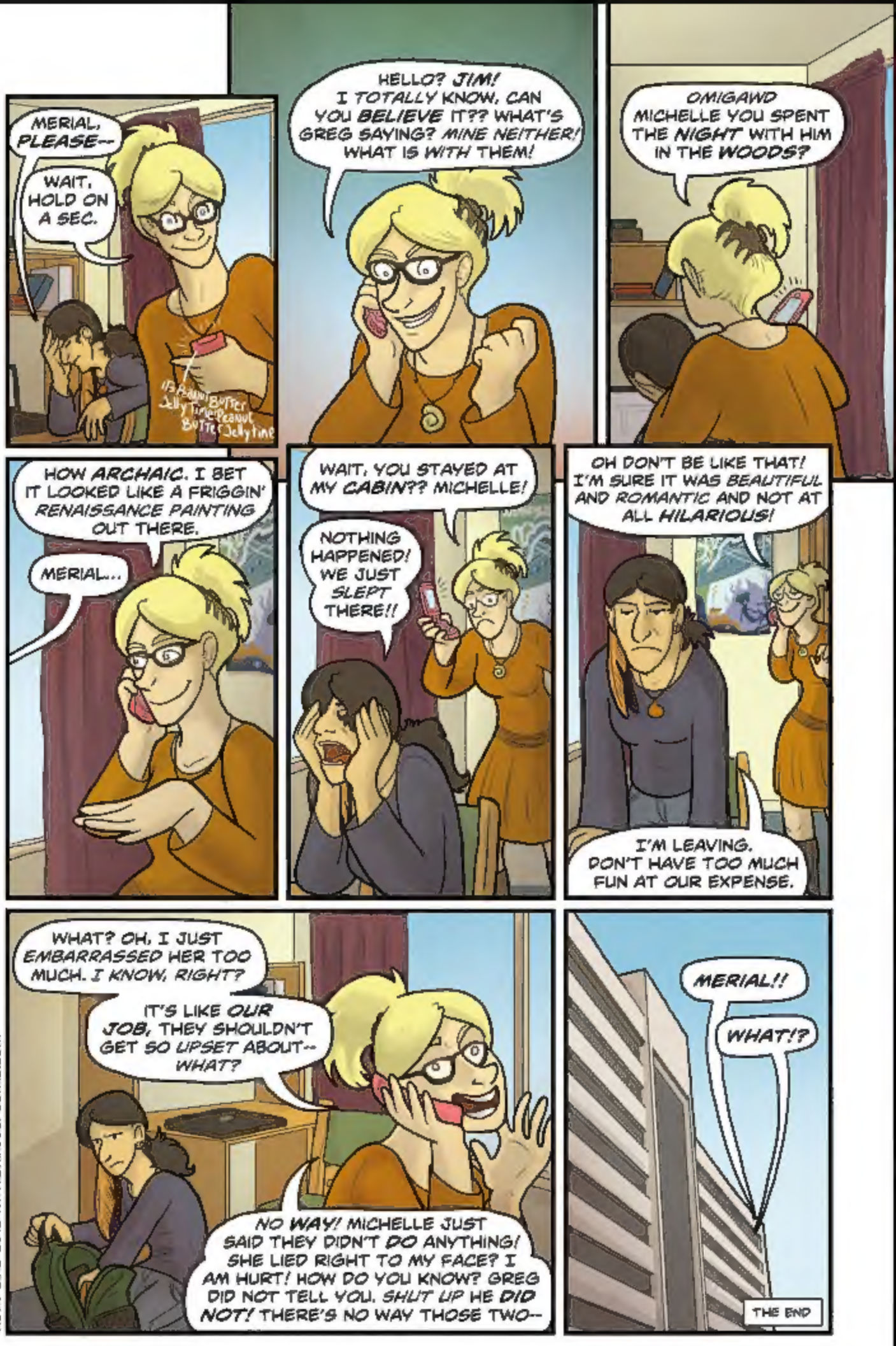
MERIAL, PLEASE--
WAIT, HOLD ON A SEC.
HELLO? JIM! I TOTALLY KNOW, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?? WHAT'S GREG SAYING? MINE NEITHER! WHAT IS WITH THEM!
OMIGAWD MICHELLE YOU SPENT THE NIGHT WITH HIM IN THE WOODS?
HOW ARCHAIC. I BET IT LOOKED LIKE A FRIGGIN' RENAISSANCE PAINTING OUT THERE.
MERIAL...
WAIT, YOU STAYED AT MY CABIN?? MICHELLE!
NOTHING HAPPENED! WE JUST SLEPT THERE!!
OH DON'T BE LIKE THAT! I'M SURE IT WAS BEAUTIFUL AND ROMANTIC AND NOT AT ALL HILARIOUS!
I'M LEAVING. DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH FUN AT OUR EXPENSE.
WHAT? OH, I JUST EMBARRASSED HER TOO MUCH. I KNOW, RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE OUR JOB, THEY SHOULDN'T GET SO UPSET ABOUT-- WHAT?
NO WAY! MICHELLE JUST SAID THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! SHE LIED RIGHT TO MY FACE? I AM HURT! HOW DO YOU KNOW? GREG DID NOT TELL YOU. SHUT UP HE DID NOT! THERE'S NO WAY THOSE TWO--
MERIAL!!
WHAT!?
THE END

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